



e-Scotia

Newsletter of the Anglo-Scottish FHS

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Anglo Scottish Family History Society



Welcome: to the December 2023 edition of the newsletter. Our Branch meeting this month was a gathering for Christmas and a chance to enjoy one another's company and have some fun as well as eats and drinks. A little resume of the event is attached.

As usual we indicate some information that we hope will inform your Scottish research. Given also that it is the season of good will and giving, a Crossword Puzzle is attached to while away the time . You will have to print it off to do it, but I hope you manage it. The answers are provided on the subsequent page.

Enjoy.

Editor.

*We wish you a peaceful Christmas
And every good wish for 2024*



Anglo Scottish Branch Christmas Party:

Unfortunately weather conditions and travel restrictions put a check on the number of members able to attend, nevertheless about 20 of us managed to get together and share.



We decided this year to change the format of our gathering and move away from set quizzes. Puzzles however remained the topic of the day ably presented to us by Hilary Hartigan using her iPad and the big screen. One of the events involved each of us submitting beforehand a photograph of ourselves under the age of 6 years. It was then up to the others to try and identify who it was. This produced some very humorous and interesting scenarios together with family stories but as might be expected, discerning the image before us and linking it to a person in the room, (almost all, 60years older), was not successful - but fun. We had also been invited to submit photographs of views and scenes well known to us together with unusual items of family history which others then had to try and identify. Some were more successful at this than others but as well as testing our general knowledge of places in Scotland it did throw up some interesting artifacts that people shared.

Altogether a good opportunity for spending time together in a relaxed atmosphere made all the more acceptable by the abundance of food and drink, (both alcoholic and otherwise) that was produced.

What's on in the Society? whilst celebrations over the Christmas period occupy most of us each of the Branches continues to prepare for the events of the year ahead.

Bolton: on Wednesday, 10th January, Bolton Branch kick off the new year with a speaker who narrates how their grandmother's uncle and wife, both cotton workers, went to work in a Russian cotton mill in 1861 only to find any number of British people already working in Russia. This is a hybrid meeting and full details of venue and how to register are available on the Branch web site.

Oldham: on Saturday, 13th January, Oldham Branch also develop the Cotton Industry theme with a presentation by Dr Michael Winstanley who is looking at "Life and Work in Cotton Lancashire 1830-1914". Promises to be an interesting exploration of the development of the cotton trade in Lancashire and how it affected local people. This is a Zoom only presentation, free and open to all. Full details on the Branch web site.

Manchester: on Wednesday, 17th January at Manchester Central Library, the Society quarterly meeting has two presentations on offer. The first at 10.30 a.m. is a presentation by Michael Billington looking at the Manchester areas of Flixton, Urmston and Davyhulme through postcard images. Then at 1.00 p.m. Keith Warrender tells the story of the development and growth of Deansgate, Manchester. Again, details of these events are to be found on the Manchester web site along with details of how to register.

Shop: please do not forget about the Society shop and its offerings, especially just coming up to this gift-giving time. A great stocking filler would be the ever popular "Ancestral File" that enables you to record all of your research simply and easily in one book and so get rid of all those bits of paper. At only £4.50 it is bargainous!!

A date for your diary

**MLFHS 60th Anniversary Celebration
showcasing what we have achieved in the last 60 years**

Wednesday, 13th March 2024 at Manchester Central

Scottish Indexes Conference: January 13th 2024

A little reminder that the 23rd Scottish Indexes Conference is now open for registration. It is to be held on Saturday, 13th January 2024 and information about it can be found [here](#) with an indication of those taking part.

Last month we made reference to the November conference. For those who attended and, especially for those who did not manage to, a [pdf handout](#) is available courtesy of the Maxwells. What is also available is a link to a *You Tube* presentation by Chris Fleet, map curator at the [National Library of Scotland](#) on the subject of "Getting the best from the NLS maps website for family history research". [You can access it here.](#)

Scotlands People: those of you who are registered to receive the ScotlandsPeople newsletter will be already aware of the latest additions to the site so this is for the benefit of those readers not so linked in. New employment records have been added to the "People Search" option. Click on the "Employment Records" box to see;

Lighthouse keepers registers: Search the registers of lightkeepers employed by the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses (Northern Lighthouse Board) between 1837 and 1921. The lightkeeper registers have two parts. The first part consists of individual pages for each lightkeeper. The second part consists of individual pages for each lighthouse, which lists all lightkeepers who served at each lighthouse. Choose the relevant selection below to search by either individual lightkeeper, or by individual lighthouse.



Scottish Women's Land Army Register: These records refer to women who were engaged in agricultural and forestry work during the 2nd World War and cover the period 1939 to 1950. A chance then to find out if any female ancestor is listed and what they did during the war. Worth noting though that the information available only refers to those born in 1922 and before. Presumably, as with BMD records, other names will become available in future years as the 100 year rule progresses.

Scottish Records Association: you may recall that in the November newsletter I referred to the forthcoming conference organised by the Scottish Records Association, of which, we as a Branch, are members. It was held on the 23rd November in Perth. From the agenda produced it looked to be a very interesting gathering, unfortunately, not for those of us not geographically close to Perth. Given the predominance of Zoom facilities these days I emailed the secretary of the SRA to ask if consideration had been given to a Zoom facility at the conference for members not able to attend. This seemed particularly apt given that the AGM of the SRA is a Zoomed meeting. I received a very gracious reply to my email thus;

"Thanks for your email. Some of the SRA events are online only, some are on-site only and some are hybrid. I know that the conference working group considered a hybrid conference this year but decided to go with on-site only this time, but I don't know what the circumstances were. I think there might have been some issues with running a hybrid conference from the venue in Perth in the past (although that was due to different recording settings used by speakers when they recorded oral history interviews). We're certainly looking at conferences that will be online or hybrid in the future, and we run online palaeography workshops."

So, there we are. Perhaps something in the future. However for anyone interested in attend the AGM, it is a Zoom meeting and to be held on Thursday, 14th December at 12.30 p.m. The agenda and papers for the meeting are contained in the Autumn issue of the SRA journal, "Retour" which is available to Branch members in the "Exchange Journal" section of the Society web site under the heading of "Scottish Records Association". If you wish to attend, please notify the Secretary, Anne Cameron (anne.m.cameron@strath.ac.uk), no later than Tuesday 12 December to receive the Zoom joining instructions.

Scotland and the American Declaration of Independence: according to my sources it is thought that of the 56 signatories to the American Declaration of Independence, as many as 21, or even more, had Scottish ancestors. Two, John Witherspoon and James Wilson, were born in Scotland. Of the others, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas McKean, Francis Lewis, Phillip Livingston, George Ross and Benjamin Rush were all descended from Scots. Certainly it has long been considered that the principles behind the *"Declaration of Arbroath"* informed the thinking behind the American declaration. Are we surprised? No, not really.



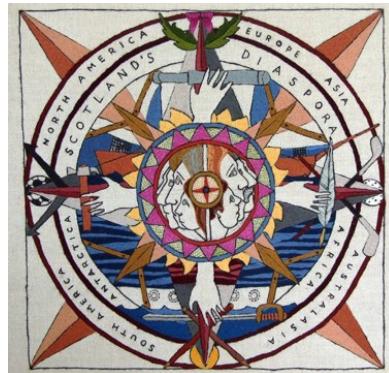


Anglo Scottish Branch Events Calendar 2024



So that you can mark these events in your diaries we can let you know of the full programme that we have arranged. Zoom meetings are highlighted otherwise meetings at Manchester Central Library.

- January 6th: No meeting
- February 3rd: Caledonian Asylum Petitions. Lorna Kinnaird. [Zoom](#).
- March 2nd: AGM followed by a talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Ken Nisbet . [Zoom](#).
- April 6th Homes fit for Heroes in the 1921 Scottish Census. Kay Williams. [Zoom](#).
- May 4th Who are the Scots: What is a Clan and why are we not Celtic? Bruce Durie.
- June 1st Historic Environment Scotland. Neil Fraser. [Zoom](#).
- July 6 Society 60 th anniversary celebration
- Aug. 3rd No meeting
- Sept. 7th: Scotland beneath the Surface. Bruce Keith.
- October 5th: Library resources. [Zoom](#).
- November 2nd: The Scottish Colourists. Julia Marwood.
- December 7th: Christmas celebration.



For more details of the events check out information on the Branch web site.



Anglo Scottish Branch

Please note that there is no meeting of the Branch in January.

Worst of all - there will be no newsletter either!!!



Anglo Scottish Branch Meeting - 1400 hrs on Saturday, 3rd February 2024 - by Zoom

“Caledonian Asylum Petitions” with Lorna Kinnaird.

Lorna is a professional genealogist living in Edinburgh who has been involved in Scottish family history research for many years. It was during part of her research that she came across the records she will be presenting.

The background to the petitions is the work of The Highland Society of London a charitable trust that has been going since 1778. In 1808 they appealed to raise funds for an “asylum” (a place of refuge) “to house the many young Scots roaming the streets of London, many having been orphaned or left fatherless following the Napoleonic wars.” It is the records of these that Lorna will be sharing with us .

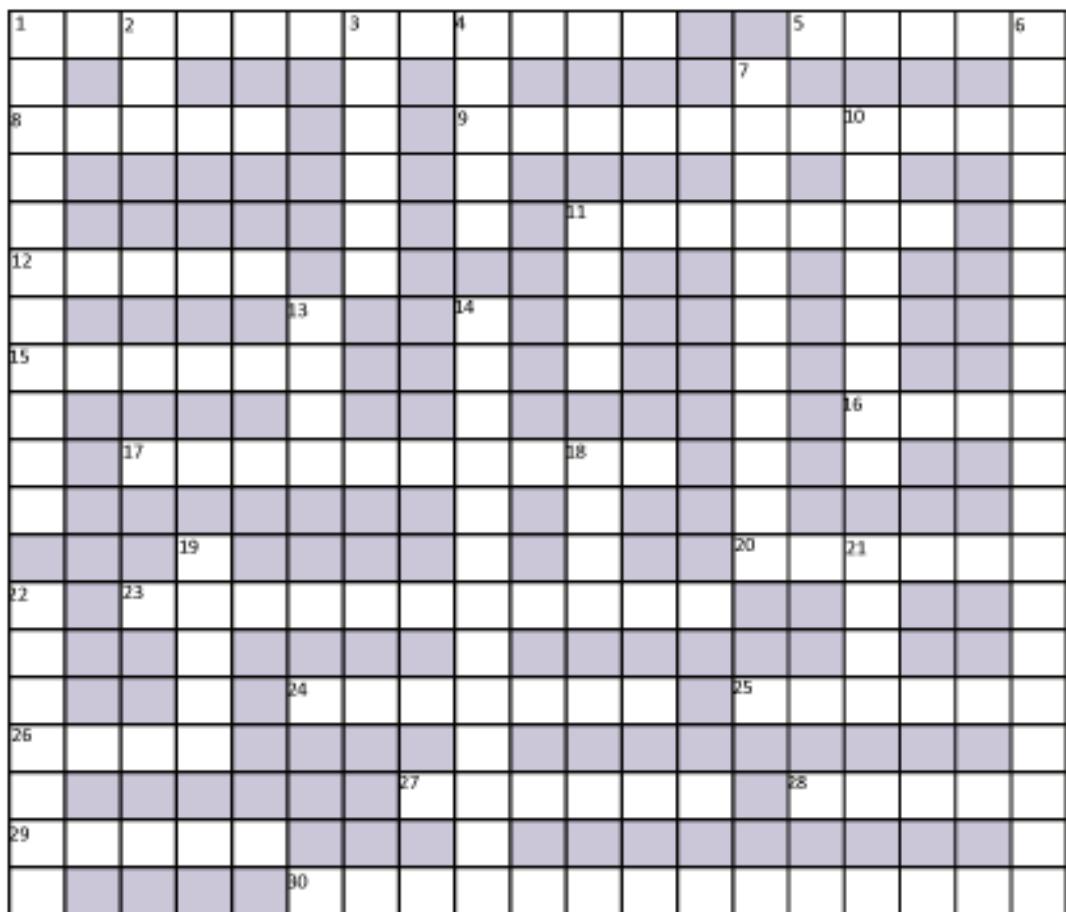
It promises to be a very interesting session about a topic few of us probably knew anything about. Lorna will be speaking to us from Edinburgh, so the presentation will be by Zoom.

As usual details of the event will be sent out by our chairman in January. If you want to take part please reserve a place via [Evenbrite](#) as this enables log-in details to be sent to you. The presentation is free for members, £3 for non-members. You will be required to give your membership number when you book.



Scottish Family History Crossword

No prizes - just the satisfaction of knowing you have done it



Across

1. Queen Mother born here
5. This river produces a great Glen whisky
8. An island for sweaters
9. The old name for Angus
11. The meaning of failte
12. Duncan was killed by Macbeth near this town
15. This island group were Margaret of Denmark's dowry
16. You can get the ferry to Mull from here
17. Surname of famous Scottish architect and designer
20. Did 19 Down ever enjoy one of these?
23. The newsletter of 15 Across
24. Nasty massacre here.
25. Mother's maiden name of 17 Across
26. An old Scottish word for Foxes
27. The hammer not the confessor
28. A town in Clackmannanshire

29. The Farquars collected these

30 A bridge on the Union Canal near Edinburgh

Down

1. Important port on the Forth near Stirling
2. County town of Robert Burn country
3. A Campbell castle near Inverness
4. Umbrella organisation of Scottish FHS
6. A central document signed in 1638
7. He spoke to the Branch in May 2016
10. Surname of senior peer in Scotland
11. General builder of roads?
13. Boat more familiar in Canada
14. Northern Ireland is part of this British designation
18. Charlie went over the sea to here.
19. An ancient Scottish people.
- 21 Scots gaelic for children
22. The Scottish flag

Crossword Answers

